

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00

FEA-01 INT-05 OES-07 DOTE-00 EA-07 COME-00 /101 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5877

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 3247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN, TZ, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS TANZANIA

1. INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE VISITED TANZANIA FROM JULY 27 TO AUGUST 2. VAJPAYEE, WHO PARTICIPATED IN MEETING OF INDO-TANZANIA JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION, WAS FIRST SENIOR MEMBER OF JANATA GOVERNMENT TO VISIT TANZANIA.

2. ON POLITICAL FRONT, VAJPAYEE DISCUSSED SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE, SWAPO PRESIDENT NUJOMA AND HOST FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA. HE DEMONSTRATED INDIA'S SOLIDARITY BY DECLARING INDIA HAD ALLOTTED \$3.37 MILLION IN 1977/78 BUDGET FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION. VAJPAYEE IS REPORTED AS HAVING SAID INDIA WAS READY TO CONSIDER SUPPLYING ARMS TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IF NEEDED.

3. INDO-TANZANIAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION HELD ITS SECOND SESSION JULY 29-AUGUST 2 UNDER LEADERSHIP OF VICE PRESIDENT JUMBE AND VAJPAYEE. COMMISSION APPEARS PRIMARILY TO BE A VEHICLE FOR INDIA TO CHANNEL ITS EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES TO TANZANIA. MORE THAN 800 INDIAN EXPERTS ARE NOW WORKING IN
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TANZANIA AND INDIAN PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT, ARE INCREASINGLY EVIDENT. ZANZIBAR, WHERE INDIA'S COMMERCIAL PRESENCE IS PARTICULARLY OBVIOUS, WAS REPRESENTED AT COMMISSION TALKS BY ITS OWN DELEGATION. COMMISSION REVIEWED COOPERATION IN VARIETY OF AREAS, INCLUDING PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS, SUGAR, SALT, AND BICYCLES. INDIA'S PROPOSED SALE OF LOCOMOTIVES AND RAILROAD CARS WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.

4. COMMENT. WE SEE VAJPAYEE'S VISIT AS BALANCING INDIA'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS IN TANZANIA. THE JANATA GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO ASSURE ITSELF OF TANZANIA'S POLITICAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND AS AN INDIAN OCEAN STATE. IT ALSO APPEARS PREPARED TO EXPAND ON ITS PREDECESSOR'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A MARKET IN TANZANIA. IN TANZANIA'S VIEW, INDIA PRESENTS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CLOSER TIES WITH WESTERN OR COMMUNIST STATES, INCLUDING CHINA, IN ITS SEARCH FOR TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT. THERE MAY ALSO BE SOME BELIEF THAT INDIA'S TECHNOLOGY IS BEST SUITED FOR A DEVELOPING ECONOMY BECAUSE IT IS NOT FORBIDDINGLY SOPHISTICATED.

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